

Alfred HEINRICH  
Serial No. 09/777,866  
May 6, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, a title commensurate with the amended claims presented herewith has been adopted.

Several passages in the originally filed specification have been amended so as to present the same in more idiomatic English and to remove vestiges of literal translation therefrom.

Pending claims 1-15 have been amended for purpose of clarity while new claims 16-24 have been presented to define subject matter of a scope to which applicants are deemed entitled. In this regard independent claim 1 has been revised so as to emphasize that the intermediary component is positioned between respective axial faces of the filled plastic component and the basic body. Independent claim 20 is similar to independent claim 1, but limits the filled plastic component to one having magnetic particles as a filling material.

Thus, claims 1-24 are presently pending in this application for which favorable reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowability indication of the subject matter of claims 6-7, 9 and 12. However, as will become evident from the discussion which follows, all claims now pending herein are deemed to be allowable over the art of record.

Specifically, many of the originally presented claims attracted rejections under 35 USC §§102(b) or 103(a) based on the applied Caillaut patent (USP 5,530,344). Applicant suggests that the amended and new claims presented herewith are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious from Caillaut.

In this regard, applicant notes that the applied Caillaut patent discloses a plastic component (axially magnetized ring shaped magnet 14) with a high filling grade which is connected to a basic body (13) via an intermediary (seal 15) made of an elastic material. The ring-shaped magnet 14 comprises an annular projection 14e which engages into an annular groove (15e) of the seal 15 forming a locking connection between the seal 15 and the magnet 14. As shown by Figures 3 and 4 of the Caillaut patent, a projection adjacent to the annular groove 15e of the seal 15 is embedded in a groove adjacent to the projection Mc of the magnet 14 by a frictional and/or positive connection.

It should be noted, however, that the seal 15 forms an "intermediary" between the magnet 14 and the basic body 13 only at the radially inward side of the magnet 14. Thus, no intermediary is formed by means of the seal 15 according to Caillaut **axially** between the basic body 13 and the magnet 14 at their respective axial faces. Instead, Caillaut discloses that the magnet 14 is provided with axial crenellations 14b which penetrate into windows 13c of the basic body 13. Because of the different materials of the magnet 14 and the body 13, strains may occur under changing thermal conditions in the axial connecting area within the range of the crenellations 14b penetrating into the windows which might cause damage to and/or cracks in the magnet 14.

In contrast, according to the present invention, damage to and cracks in the plastic component under changing thermal conditions are avoided by essentially "sandwiching" the intermediary component between the respective axial faces of the highly filled plastic component and the basic body. It is therefore important that the intermediary component made of elastic material is embedded with its at least one projection in a groove or opening in the axial face of the plastic component so as to create a frictional and/or positive connection therewith.

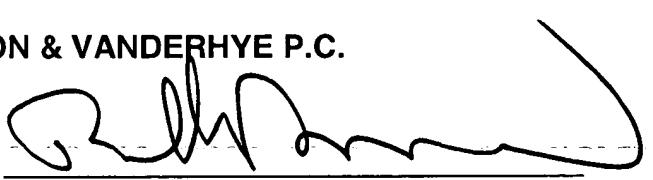
It is therefore suggested that the applied Caillaut patent cannot anticipate or render obvious the claims now pending in this application. As such, withdrawal of all

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art-based rejections against the pending claims and their early passage to issuance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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